

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction
1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena
September 22-23, 2011

Members in Attendance: Christa Seger, Mick Leary, Vaughn Kauffman, Lora Griffin, Bob Stansberry, Jim Marks, Terry Galle, Diana Tavary, Marilyn Davis, Theresa Baldry, Chris Bilant, Carolyn Prill, Tia Davis

Excused Members: Lily Wahl, Doug Roberts, Sharon Tregedga, Erica Swanson, Vaughn Kauffman (Thursday afternoon), and Mick Leary (Friday), Edith McClafferty

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Frank Podobnik, Dale Kimmet, Doug Doty, Steve York, Dick Trerise, John Copenhaver, Mary Gallagher, Danni McCarthy, Anne Rainey, Francisco Roman, Marla Swanby, Susan Bailey-Anderson, Amy Friez, Karen Davis, Issac Baldry, Marlene Wallis, Karen Jeschke

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Chairperson Christa Seger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

The Panel reviewed the Proposed Agenda. Vaughn Kauffman moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Bob Stansberry seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the Minutes of the July 7, 2011, Panel meeting. Bob Stansberry moved to accept the minutes, Diana Tavary seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Minutes of the July 7, 2011, Panel meeting were accepted as written.

Advisory Panel Orientation

Dick Trerise introduced John Copenhaver to the members of the Panel. John is the Director for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) and principal investigator for the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC). Mr. Copenhaver has experience in special education at the school district, state, regional, and national levels. Before joining the TAESE/MPRRC staff, Mr. Copenhaver served as a special education resource teacher, school psychologist, and special education director. His work at TAESE and the MPRRC has involved providing technical assistance at the school, state, regional, and national levels. Mr. Copenhaver has extensive experience in Indian education. He provides technical assistance to states regarding their State Performance Plan, Annual Performance Report, and Levels of Determination.

John said the purpose of the orientation was to provide Panel members with an overview of their purpose and functions and provide a heads up for Panel members on emerging regional and national issues.

John distributed an Orientation Meeting packet to the Panel members. He advised the members that within the packet is "A Primer for State Special Education Advisory Panel Members and SEA Staff" that the Panel will be going through during the orientation. A transition wheel was

also included in the packet that is a “Road Map to Success” for preschool, K-3, grades 4-6 and grades 7-8. It explains what LEAs should do in the various grade levels when planning for lifespan transition.

The “State Performance Plans and Annual Performance Reports” brochure included in the packet notes that under the IDEA reauthorization in 2004, it is required that each state develop a State Performance Plan (SPP). It is also required that each state reports annually to the U.S. Secretary of Education on the progress it has made in meeting the measurable and rigorous targets established in its six-year SPP. This is the Annual Performance Report (APR). The Panel members will be acquainted with the SPP and APR during the January Panel meeting.

John noted that the IDEA will probably be reauthorized in 2013 and the Panel will be part of this by reviewing regulations and commenting on the reauthorization.

John led the Panel members through the “Primer,” which included the Advisory Panel Functions, membership (areas of representation), responsibility of the Panel to advise, not advocate, meeting procedures, and other areas noted in the “Primer.”

It was noted that the Panel serves without compensation, attends reasonable and necessary meetings and may request interpreters. The Panel needs to provide input for Advisory Panel agenda items. The meetings are open for public comment with ground rules and official minutes are taken.

Following the orientation, the meeting adjourned.

Friday, September 23, 2011

Chairperson Christa Seger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Diana Tavary asked everyone to put away their iPods/iPads and any type of technology and to write down all meetings, appointments, etc., they have for the next week; sporting events to attend and church activities. She wanted to make a point to demonstrate how difficult it is for someone with a disability without technology.

PLUK

Isaac Baldry demonstrated how technology has made an impact on his life and in school.

Theresa Baldry has been asked to train on the use of iPads and assistive technology. She described the benefits of assistive technology for students with disabilities. Chris Bilant noted the cost impact on some districts for assistive technology. She said that some school budgets are stretched.

OPI Report

Tim Harris reported that regarding teacher recruitment the OPI signed a two-year contract, renewable for five years, with Teachers-Teachers. There are 700,000 resumes in the database. Montana districts have access and can be proactive in recruiting teachers.

Dick Trerise suggested that the Teachers-Teachers.com Web site be viewed at a future Panel meeting.

Tim informed the Panel that the OPI is funding three programs at the University of Montana: Speech Stipends, Stipends to those supervising both speech and psychology programs, and Texas Tech, aimed at Orientation Mobility specialists.

Autism

Doug Doty told the Panel that the OPI has an Autism Blog and encouraged the Panel members to view it and take part in the Autism Webinars. He said that there are four very part-time consultants available to schools through the Montana Autism Education Project. Schools can contact Doug at ddoty@mt.gov to request assistance. They are also available to provide trainings related to autism.

Doug said there are various trainings occurring in the state for Autism. Doug is working on an iPad Summit to share ideas in small groups.

Four presentations on Female Aspergers are scheduled. The presentations will take place in Billings, April 25, 2012; Helena, April 26, 2012; Missoula, April 27, 2012; and Kalispell, April 28, 2012.

IDEA Part B/Data and Accountability

Frank Podobnik told the Panel members that the Unit is working on an electronic IEP and methods of data collection.

Frank distributed a Calendar of Events (Dates) for the Unit. This Calendar covers IDEA Part B; Suspension/Expulsion Data; ADC collection of special education personnel data; Child Count; SPP/APR; School discipline; AIM; Dispute Resolution; and Assessment Data, as well as other areas. The Calendar is a part of the minutes.

CSPD

Susan Bailey-Anderson presented an overview of the Professional Development Unit programs. The CSPD is known nationally for the work that is being done in Montana. Susan described the ECPPD and CELL programs, Paraprofessional Consortium, SPDG grant, Braided Initiative; RTI and MBI. Susan distributed a handout showing the Professional Development Unit and an Acronym Dictionary on the backside.

RTI

Amy Friez informed the Panel that 177 schools are implementing RTI. She gave an overview of the RTI Social Media Site and what is available to schools.

Susan told the Panel that the Youth Days program provides community service benefits and these activities make a difference in the lives of students.

The joint meeting of the CSPD and Advisory Panel will take place May 3, 2012.

Call for Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Thank You

A special “Thank You” to Karen Jeschke for filling in for Marlene while she was on vacation.

Adjourn

Terry Galle moved to adjourn the meeting, and Vaughn Kauffman seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.